
Comparing the scope of cadet activities at the local, state, and national levels

Weekly squadron meetings

Overview. The weekly squadron meeting is the nucleus of the Cadet Program.

Planning. Meetings should be well-planned, with the input of cadet officers. Special projects should be cumulative; the efforts of one meeting should be carry over and guide the efforts of the next meeting.

Suggest meeting format:

Opening formation (15 min.)

- National Anthem
- Cadet Oath
- Announcements
- Uniform inspection

Emphasis item (10 min; one per meeting)

- Drill & ceremonies
- Aerospace current events
- Safety Briefing

Core curriculum (50 min; one per meeting)

- Leadership
- Aerospace education
- Character development
- Physical fitness
- Achievement tests

Break & administrative time (10 min.)

Special training (50 min; one per meeting)

- Model rocketry
- Drill team
- Emergency services
- Other special projects

Closing formation (10 min.)

- Announcements
- Promotions & awards

Local activities

Overview. Local activities are generally best-suited for weekends.

Host. Local activities are self-supported by the squadron, or done in partnership with a neighboring squadron.

Planning. Schedule weekend activities 4-weeks in advance, allowing members ample time to make plans for attending. They will need to be well-planned, and should have at least one meaningful objective that can be measured.

Audience. Local activities should be geared for all cadets in the unit.

Expenses. Expenses are usually off-set by local dues, or nominal activity fees.

Examples:

Orientation flights
Model rocketry
Bivouacs & day hikes
Satellite Tool Kit
Honor guards & drill teams
Community service projects
Aerospace outreach projects
Emergency services training
Field trips
and more...

Wing & regional activities

Overview. Wing and regional activities are usually week-long activities held during school vacations. Some wings offer week-end activities. At these echelons, activities should harness the talents of a diverse group of people in the wing or region, and have a grander scope than local activities, offering opportunities to cadets beyond what their local squadron is likely to be able to provide.

Host. The wing or region staff usually leads and organizes the activities.

Planning. Activities should be announced several months in advance so that squadrons can plan their activities around them. Each activity should have at least one meaningful objective that can be measured.

Audience. Most wing and region activities should be open to all cadets in the echelon, although some activities will be tailored for advanced cadets. They will need to be well-planned, and should have at least one meaningful objective that can be measured.

Expenses. Cadets may be required to pay activity fees to cover the cost of meals and lodging. With many cadets attending from each unit, local squadrons often organize transportation.

Examples:

Encampments
Drill team & color guard competitions
Region cadet leadership schools
Conferences
Public speaking competitions
Flight academies
Job shadowing with industry or USAF
Emergency services training
and more...

National activities

Overview. National Cadet Special Activities are week-long events. Almost all are conducted during the summer. They focus on aerospace career explorations, flying, and the study of advanced leadership principles.

Host. NCSAs are managed by National Headquarters, but lead by CAP volunteers. They are co-hosted by Air Force units, colleges, government agencies, or other major institutions.

Planning. NCSAs are announced several months in advance, and planned using formal syllabi.

Audience. Cadets must meet certain prerequisites to participate, and compete for a limited number of slots. Nearly all NCSAs are designed for cadets who have graduated from encampment.

Expenses. For most NCSAs, cadets are required to pay an activity fee to cover the cost of meals and lodging, as well as provide their own transportation.

Examples:

Cadet Officer School
Civic Leadership Academy
International Air Cadet Exchange
National Cadet Competition

Advanced Technologies Academy
Aircraft Maintenance & Mfg Course
Engineering Technologies Academy

AF Pararescue Orientation Course
AF Space Command Orientation Course
AF Weather Agency Familiarization Course

National Emergency Services Academy
National Flight Academies
and more...